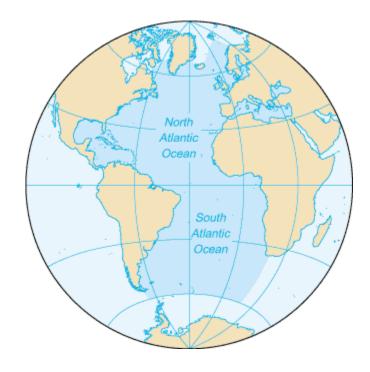


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Legend: Definition Field Listing Rank Order

Atlantic Ocean

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Background: 🕮 🗐

Introduction

The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest of the world's five oceans (after the Pacific Ocean, but larger than the Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic

Ocean). The Kiel Canal (Germany), Oresund (Denmark-Sweden), Bosporus (Turkey), Strait of Gibraltar (Morocco-Spain), and the Saint Lawrence Seaway (Canada-US) are important strategic access waterways. The decision by the International Hydrographic Organization in the spring of 2000 to delimit a fifth world ocean, the Southern Ocean, removed the portion of the Atlantic Ocean south of 60 degrees south latitude.

Geography	Atlantic Ocean	Top of Page
Location:		
	body of water between Africa, Europe, the Southern Hemisphere	n Ocean, and the Western
Geographic coordinates:		
	0 00 N, 25 00 W	
Map references:		
	Political Map of the World	
Area:		
	total: 76.762 million sq km note: includes Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caribbean Sea Strait, part of the Drake Passage, Gulf of Mexico, I Sea, North Sea, Norwegian Sea, almost all of the Se water bodies	Labrador Sea, Mediterranean
Area - comparative:		
	slightly less than 6.5 times the size of the US	
Coastline:		
	111,866 km	
Climate:		
	tropical cyclones (hurricanes) develop off the coast and move westward into the Caribbean Sea; hurrica December, but are most frequent from August to N	anes can occur from May to
Terrain:		
	surface usually covered with sea ice in Labrador Se portions of the Baltic Sea from October to June; clo (broad, circular system of currents) in the northern warm-water gyre in the southern Atlantic; the ocean Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a rugged north-south centerline.	Atlantic, counterclockwise n floor is dominated by the
Elevation extremes:	₩ 🗏	
	lowest point: Milwaukee Deep in the Puerto Rico T highest point: sea level 0 m	French -8,605 m
Natural resources:		
	oil and gas fields, fish, marine mammals (seals and aggregates, placer deposits, polymetallic nodules, p	, .

Natural hazards: 🛄 🗐



icebergs common in Davis Strait, Denmark Strait, and the northwestern Atlantic Ocean from February to August and have been spotted as far south as Bermuda and the Madeira Islands; ships subject to superstructure icing in extreme norther Atlantic from October to May; persistent fog can be a maritime hazard from Ma to September; hurricanes (May to December)

Environment current issues:



endangered marine species include the manatee, seals, sea lions, turtles, and whales; drift net fishing is hastening the decline of fish stocks and contributing international disputes; municipal sludge pollution off eastern US, southern Brazil, and eastern Argentina; oil pollution in Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Lake Maracaibo, Mediterranean Sea, and North Sea; industrial waste and municipal sewage pollution in Baltic Sea, North Sea, and Mediterranean Sea

Geography - note: 🛄 🗐



major chokepoints include the Dardanelles, Strait of Gibraltar, access to the Panama and Suez Canals; strategic straits include the Strait of Dover, Straits of Florida, Mona Passage, The Sound (Oresund), and Windward Passage; the Equator divides the Atlantic Ocean into the North Atlantic Ocean and South Atlantic Ocean

## **Atlantic Ocean Economy**

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Economy overview:



The Atlantic Ocean provides some of the world's most heavily trafficked sea routes, between and within the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Other economic activity includes the exploitation of natural resources, e.g., fishing, dredging of aragonite sands (The Bahamas), and production of crude oil and natural gas (Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and North Sea).

## **Transportation Atlantic Ocean**

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Ports and terminals:



Alexandria (Egypt), Algiers (Algeria), Antwerp (Belgium), Barcelona (Spain), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Casablanca (Morocco), Colon (Panama), Copenhage (Denmark), Dakar (Senegal), Gdansk (Poland), Hamburg (Germany), Helsinki (Finland), Las Palmas (Canary Islands, Spain), Le Havre (France), Lisbon (Portugal), London (UK), Marseille (France), Montevideo (Uruguay), Montreal (Canada), Naples (Italy), New Orleans (US), New York (US), Oran (Algeria), Oslo (Norway), Peiraiefs or Piraeus (Greece), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Rotterdai (Netherlands), Saint Petersburg (Russia), Stockholm (Sweden)

Transportation note:



Kiel Canal and Saint Lawrence Seaway are two important waterways; significan domestic commercial and recreational use of Intracoastal Waterway on central and south Atlantic seaboard and Gulf of Mexico coast of US

Transnational Atlantic Ocean Issues

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Disputes - 🔲 📋 international:

some maritime disputes (see littoral states)

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